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#### A VOTE FOR CAFTA IS A VOTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as all of us know, CAFTA was finished last year and will soon be taken up by the Congress.

While trade is a critical component of CAFTA, we must recognize that CAFTA is more than just about trade. We have a national security imperative in passing CAFTA. It is an important component of U.S. efforts to address the conditions that breed instability, terrorism, and international criminal activity.

We must help ensure that the countries in Central America have the ability to fight the threats to their democratic institutions. Helping their economic growth is a critical factor to achieving success.

CAFTA is the vehicle for achieving such important U.S. foreign policy and security objectives. CAFTA's defeat would harm not only trade, but antiterrorism and antinarcotic efforts as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of CAFTA. A vote for CAFTA is a vote for U.S. national security.

#### COMMERCE AND CENSORSHIP

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as Congress considers the Central American Free Trade Agreement, we can look on the other side of the world on what our trade agreements and trade policies have wrought.

USA Today has an editorial today I will read from for a moment: "Part of the Internet's magic is the freedom it bestows to travel as far as your mind can take you. But not if you're in China.

"Software giant Microsoft has agreed to block certain words: democracy, freedom, and human rights among them," on the Internet as part of its new Chinese Internet portal. They have been joined by Yahoo and by Google.

So, Mr. Speaker, write in the words "democracy" or "freedom" or the phrase "human rights," and what comes up on your screen as those words are blocked? It says, "This item should not contain forbidden speech, such as profanity." Human rights, freedom, democracy? That is profanity?

Mr. Speaker, these trade agreements we have signed, coupled with our striving for freedom around the world and what our businesses say about their

wanting to promote freedom and democracy, sound a bit hollow.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise to talk about an issue that altogether too many Americans know more about than perhaps some folks here in Washington, and that is the almost inexcusable high prices for prescription drugs here in the United States. The more we learn about this subject, the more frustrating it becomes, because what we have learned over the last 5 or 6 years is it is not just that Americans pay high prices for prescription drugs; it is that people in industrialized countries like Germany and France and Switzerland pay so much less than we do.

What I have here is a chart, and I know these letters are almost too small to see on the television cameras, but let me point out a couple of the numbers. This is a chart of comparative prices that we got from a pharmacy in Frankfurt, Germany, called Metropolitan Pharmacy; and then we got prices from a local pharmacy in Rochester, Minnesota, for exactly the same drugs made in the same plants under the same FDA approval. What we see are some amazing differences.

Look at, for example, the drug Nexium, 30 tablets, 20 milligrams. In Germany, you can walk in with a prescription and buy that drug at the Metropolitan Pharmacy for \$60.25. That exact same drug in Rochester, Minnesota, will cost you \$145.33.

Let me just say that prices do vary from pharmacy to pharmacy; but I would guarantee that here in Washington, D.C., the price would probably be at least \$145.33.

Let us take the drug Zocor, 30 tablets, 10 milligrams. In Germany you can buy that drug for \$23.83, but here in the United States you would have to pay \$85.39.

Now, that is bad enough. But if you total all of these up, these are 10 of the more commonly prescribed drugs in the United States and Germany, the total for those drugs for a month's supply in Frankfurt, Germany, \$455.57. Those same drugs here in the United States, \$1,040.4. That is a 128 percent difference.

Now, this chart actually gets more interesting, because we have pharmacists all over the world now who send us their prices on a regular basis

so we can compare what is happening to drug prices. One year ago, when we compared a basket, now the drugs changed slightly, because some of these drugs went off patent, and so the basket of drugs changed slightly, but 1 year ago, the difference between the basket of 10 of the most commonly prescribed drugs in Germany was \$430, and here in the United States it was \$866. It was exactly a 100 percent difference.

The point I want to make here is during that period, during that 1-year time period, what happened was the value of the dollar relative to the euro actually came down.

Now, I am not a monetarist, I do not quite understand these exchanges sometimes, but the people who do tell me that actually what should have happened is the price differential between the United States and Germany should have gotten less. It actually got worse.

People ask, well, how could that happen? How could it be that the difference between what Americans pay and Germans pay actually got worse? Well, the reason is Americans are held hostage. The American market is a captive market, because not only do we give the pharmaceutical companies, which I believe we should give them the rights that they have in terms of their patent rights and so forth, I do not think that we should do anything to hurt people's patent rights; but what we have done in the United States is different than just giving them patent rights. Intellectual property deserves patent protection.

For example, we know that when Intel comes out with a new computer chip, that first chip off the line can cost \$500 million, but we do not tell Intel that you can also control that product after you make the first sale. In other words, if they sell that chip to a distributor in Japan for \$25 and they want to sell it to American manufacturers for \$75, they cannot control what that distributor in Japan does. We have open markets.

That is what we want to create here in the Congress. We have a majority of the House and a majority of the Senate who believe that it is time to stop holding Americans captive. We understand that these drugs cost a lot of money to develop.

We as Americans are willing to pay our share in terms of developing those drugs; but, unfortunately, Americans pay in three different ways for these drugs. First of all, we pay in the prices, and they are inflated. They are the highest prices in the world for these drugs. Secondly, we pay, in some respects, through our Tax Code, because when companies develop these drugs here in the United States, they get to write off all of the cost of those research and development dollars.

But, third, and this is also important, Americans pay more than any other country through our tax dollars to help develop these drugs. This year, we will spend over \$20 billion through various